SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR : Sir, I am aware of this. I have said that we have got the mobile tanks which are going from place to place, giving treated water. So far as this point is concerned whether in different hostels water is going to be tested, I have taken note of it. We will make arrangements.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Will you see that where there is storage....

SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR : Sir, I have told him that I have taken note of it.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Question No. 363.

SHRI ARANGIL SREEDHARAN : Sir, this side is completely ignored. We never got an opportunity....

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Question was from your party. I have given him....(*Interruptions*) No, no. This is my right. I have a right to use it as I like it.

SHRI ARANGIL SREEDHARAN : It is not used properly...

MR. CHAIRMAN : I think, this is a very unfair remark of yours. And you being a senior man, having your experience in the State Assembly also, should not say it. That is all I would say.

DR. RAJA RAMANNA : But still we feel that you have not given time for this side ...

MR. CHAIRMAN : Then I cannot give all the time to the experts only. Question No. 363. (*Interruptions*) I have to Cover Questions.

AN HON. MEMBER : He should also be given a chance.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I give him an opportunity when I feel that it is possible and his Party has not got a chance.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : We are happy that you have taken note.

SHRI K. G. MAHESHWARAPPA : What action will follow ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : The action will depend. Question No. 363.

House Tax in Delhi

*363. SHRI SHAMIM HASHMI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Municipal Corporation of Delhi causes harassment in respect of house tax to law-abiding citizens who have been paying house tax regularly ; and

(b) if so, whether a standing Tribunal is proposed to be set up for speedy action to stop the harassment and erosion of public confidence ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M.M. JACOB) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) There is no such proposal under consideration of the Government at present.

श्री शमीम हाशमी : चेयरमैन साहब, जो लोग रेगुलरली टैक्स दे रहे हैं, जो ला अबाइडिंग सिटिजन्स हैं उन पर तो आपने पीछे से इन्हांस करके नोटिस कर दिया है कि वे हाउस टैक्स पीछे की तारीखों से दें। मैं यह दरख्वास्त करूंगा कि आप पहले यह बतायें कि ला अबाइडिंग सिटिजन जो रेगुलरली हाउस टैक्स दे रहे हैं, इन्हांस टैक्स के बैक डेट से रियलाइजेशन के लिये, आपने कितने लोगों को नोटिस दिया है?

दूसरा आप यह बतायें कि जो कानून को नहीं मानते हैं और पिछले तीस सालों से टैक्स नहीं दे रहे हैं उनकी तादाद क्या है और उनके खिलाफ आप क्या कार्रवाई कर रहे हैं? वह लोग जो पांच साल से टैक्स नहीं दे रहे हैं, जिनके दरवाजे पर आप पूछने नहीं जाते हैं, उनकी तादाद क्या है और उन पर आप क्या कार्रवाई करेंगे? और वह जो दस साल से टैक्स नहीं दे रहे हैं और जिनके दरवाजे पर जाने की आपको जुर्रत नहीं होती, उनकी तादाद क्या है और उनके खिलाफ आप क्या कार्रवाई कर रहे हैं?

شری شمیم ہاشمی: چیئرمین صاحب۔ جو لوگ ریگولرلی ٹیکس دے رہے ہیں جو لا ابائیڈنگ سٹیزنس ہیں۔ ان پر تو آپنے پیچھے سے ان ہاؤس کر کے نوٹس کر دیا ہے کہ وہ ہاؤس ٹیکس پیچھے کی تاریخوں سے دیں۔ میں یہ درخواست کروں گا کہ آپ کہ آپ چاہے یہ بتائیں کہ لا ابائیڈنگ سٹیزنس جو ریگولرلی ہاؤس ٹیکس دے رہے ہیں ان ہاؤس ٹیکس کے بیک ڈیٹ سے ریلائزیشن کے لئے آپنے کتنے لوگوں کو نوٹس دیا۔ دوسرا آپ یہ بتائیں کہ جو قانون کو نہیں مانتے ہیں اور پچھلے تیس سالوں سے ٹیکس نہیں دے رہے ہیں ان کی تعداد کیا ہے اور آپ ان کے خلاف کیا کارروائی کر رہے ہیں۔ وہ لوگ جو پانچ سال سے ٹیکس نہیں دے رہے ہیں جن کے دروازے پر آپ پہنچ نہیں پاتے ہیں انکی تعداد کیا ہے اور آپ ان پر کیا کارروائی کریں گے اور وہ جو دس سال سے ٹیکس نہیں دے رہے ہیں اور جن کے دروازے پر جانے کی آپ کو ضرورت نہیں ہوتی ان کی تعداد کیا ہے اور ان کے خلاف آپ کیا کارروائی کر رہے ہیں۔

SHRI M.M. JACOB : Regarding the first part of the question regarding concession to people paying taxes regularly, a rebate of 25 per cent on self-occupied residential and 10 per cent on other buildings is allowed by the MCD if the tax is paid within 21 days of the receipt of the bill. But if the bill is not paid within 21 days, no such rebate is allowed and in addition to that, they are subject to a penalty of 20 per cent. This matter was reviewed by a high-powered committee and they have also recommended this system to continue. They have also suggested levy of interest on delayed payment.

Regarding the second part of the question about the number of people who have not paid taxes during the last 20-30 years, I need a separate notice.

MR. CHAIRMAN : He says sometimes there are influential people and the notices do not go there. In case of influential people, notices are not sent. That is the thrust of his question.

SHRI M.M. JACOB : Influence is not the criteria here. It is a question of pure mechanism ; it is a mechanical thing and it is worked out accordingly. That is why I pointed out that there is rebate to the eligible people who pay taxes on time. Other cases are naturally followed up by the department vigorously.

श्री शमीम हाशमी : हुजूर, मैंने यह इल्तजा की थी कि जो लोग रेगुलरली टैक्स दे रहे हैं उन पर जो आपने इन्हान्स करके बैक डेट से मांगा है, उनकी तादाद क्या है ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : How many people are paying taxes regularly ?

SHRI M. M. JACOB : Regarding the number of people who are paying taxes regularly, I need a separate notice.

श्री राम अवधेश सिंह : मान्यवर, हम लोगों को भी थोड़ा टाइम दिया जाय। आप कभी नहीं देते हैं।

श्री सभापति : छोटे छोटे सवाल करेंगे तो सब को सवाल करने का टाइम दे दूंगा। मेरे पास टाइम एक घंटा है, इसमें पांच सवाल तो आने चाहियें।

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†Transliteration in Arabic Script.

श्री दिग्विजय सिंह : मगर इस बात का ध्यान रखा जाय कि जब हम हाथ उठायें तो इधर भी ध्यान दें।

श्री सभापति : दिल्ली का सवाल था इसलिये दिल्ली वालों को मैंने प्रव्वलियत दी ... (**व्यवधान**) ... श्री आनन्द प्रकाश गौतम जी।

श्री आनन्द प्रकाश गौतम : सभापति महोदय, गृह करदाताओं को नाजायज परेशान किये जाने के संबंध में माननीय गृह मंत्री जी ने स्पष्ट इंकार किया कि ऐसी कोई शिकायत नहीं है। मैं माननीय मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहूंगा कि क्या इस संबंध में उनके पास पिछले एक वर्ष में ऐसी शिकायतें आई हैं या नहीं आई हैं? दूसरा, मैं यह जानना चाहता हूं कि पिछले पांच सालों में जो औसत गृह कर वार्षिक है उसमें कितना असेस्ड एक साल का है और कितना पेमेंट हुआ और उसमें कितने करदाता रेगुलरली पेमेंट कर रहे है?

SHRI M. M. JACOB : Regard- the first part of his question, about harassment, there is a mechanism in the MCD. There is a Committee consisting of two persons. Every week, they meet people, receive complaints, and redress the grievances of the tax-payers.

As regards the second part of his question, I need notice, to collect information about the number of people, payment, etc.

PROF. SAURIN BHATTACHARYA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, it was sorely disappointing to read the reply of the Minister that the Municipal Corporation of Delhi did not harass anybody. It is the duty of the Corporation to harass somebody, for tax, or, for other things. But later on, the Minister assured me, when he said that there was a Committee at the Corporation level, to look into the cases of grievances of tax-payers. The question was a bit faulty, perhaps. It should not have been 'law-abiding', but 'tax-abiding'.

Mr. CHAIRMAN : If your question is faulty, he cannot help it.

PROF. SAURIN BHATTACHARYA : My question to the hon. Minister is, since the first part he has replied and asked for separate notice in regard to the other part—would he tell me how many cases are before the Grievances Committee of Municipal Corporation of Delhi regarding harassment of the house-owners ?

SHRI M. M. JACOB : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to inform the House that a tax-payers' education programme is also being carried out by the Municipal Coroporation of Delhi, to make people understand what are the methodologies, how they have to get it done, without any harassment whatsoever. In regard to the question of the hon. Member, I would like to inform him that notices have been issued to 4,88,000 persons, who are regularly paying taxes. There are about 1200 bad cases. Out of this, 784 cases were decided.

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA : Sir, the Municipal Corporation of Delhi regulates house tax. I would like to invite the attention of the hon. Minister to a news-item....

श्री सभापति : आप प्रश्न कर लीजिये।

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA : Only two lines. This was published in 'The Hindu' of March 24. This was also published in other newspapers. It was reported that the Central Government was considering the crippling of the civic set-up of Delhi, by disbanding the Municipal Corporation of Delhi and providing for a full Municipality or a Corporation, with truncated functions and authority. I would like to know whether this report is correct. Is there any such proposal pending with the Government ?

SHRI M. M. JACOB : There was the Balakrishnan Committee. There was a proposal about the future setup of the Delhi Municipal Corporation, whether there should be one

Corporation, or, it should be divided into different Corporations. It is not finally decided as to what would be the shape of things to come. It is under the consideration of the Government. Various stages are being passed through. We will come back to you as soon as a final decison is taken in regard to the future status of the Delhi Municipal Corporation.

श्री सभापति : राम अवधेश जी आप सवाल कीजिये। बहुत देर मत लगाइये।

श्री राम अवधेश सिंह : सभापति महोदय, मैं यह जानना चाहता हूं कि दिल्ली में जो बड़े बड़े होटल हैं, उन पर कितना बकाया है। जैसे मेरीडियन होटल है, चरणजीत सिंह का, उसके ऊपर कितना है, टाटा का ताज है, उस पर कितना बकाया है, मौर्या होटल पर कितना बकाया है, हयात रीजेंसी पर कितना बकाया है। ये जो बड़े बड़े लोग हैं जो रोज लाखों कमाते हैं उन संस्थाओं के ऊपर कितना बकाया है और बकाया है तो सरकार उनसे सख्ती से वसूलना चाहती है या नहीं ?

SHRI M. M. JACOB : Sir, I may not be able to say at the moment how much a particular hotel is to pay, but at the same time there are....

श्री राम अवधेश सिंह : वसूलना चाहती है कि नहीं, यह बताइये। कब तक वसूलेंगे। कितना बकाया है। आप पीछे बता सकते हैं। इसके लिए सेपरेट नोटिस कर सकते हैं। लेकिन इतना तो कह सकते हैं कि एक दो महीने में वसूलेंगे, जितना भी बकाया हो। यह बोलिए।

SHRI M. M. JACOB : The total outstanding amount for the MCD is Rs. 68 crores on account of property tax from private, residential and non-resdentail buildings An amount of Rs. 109 crores is due from public sector undertakings. Regarding the hotel cases....

SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH : My question is pin-pointed.

SHRI M.M. JACOB : There are disputes between some of the hotels and the NDMC on the amount payable by them, which I may not be able to give, but the dispute is mostly about the tariff enforced. Those disputes are there. Several cases are pending in the Supreme Court also.

MR. CHAIRMAN : About these five-star hotels ?

SHRI M. M. JACOB : Yes, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Next Question. Question No. 364.

श्री राम अवधेश सिंह : कब तक वसूलेंगे यह मैंने कहा था। सवाल का जवाब तो दिया नहीं मैंने कहा कि यह तो आप कह सकते हैं, सरकार की ओर से इतनी बात ये बोल सकते हैं कि बकाया है। कितना बकाया है आज नहीं बता सकते, अभी नहीं बता सकते, यह मैं मानता हूं। लेकिन यह कब तक वसूलेंगे, कड़ाई करके यह तो बतायें सदन को।

श्री सभापति : प्रश्न संख्या 364।

श्री राम अवधेश सिंह : यह आश्वासन दें।

Compulsory purchase of medicines from specific shops

*364. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that some Doctors in A.I.I.M.S. and other hospitals in Delhi have been prescribing certain medicines to patients and asking them to buy these from specific shops only, as reported in the India Express of the 11th March, 1992 ;

(b) whether it is also a fact that these medicines were being manufac-